



POMONA KIDS FIRST: THE POMONA FUND FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH FACT SHEET

A community-led emergency response to the current public health and economic crisis impacting our kids and families.

*The **Pomona Kids First Initiative** seeks to establish a special fund financed through the City of Pomona's general purpose revenue without raising taxes, to ensure that the children, youth, and young adults of Pomona have the resources they need to thrive and excel. If approved by voters, the funds will be used for no cost programs and services that promote health and well-being, provide youth development and leadership opportunities, offer alternatives to youth incarceration, and help strengthen Pomona's families and communities.*

The Need. Children, youth, and young adults under 18 make up 24% of Pomona's population.¹ More than 17.2% of these children live in households with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.² As a result, these youth — especially Black, Latinx, and Indigenous youth, LGBTQIA+ teens, and children of working-class immigrant families — have markedly less access to essential resources and supports that enable their more affluent peers to thrive and succeed. Even worse, these youth are the ones who are at greater risk of exposure to physical or emotional abuse, neglect, substance use or mental health problems, and other adverse childhood experiences. As a result, they are also at greater risk of becoming the subject of disciplinary action in school, and/or coming into contact with the child welfare, law enforcement and justice systems.

The Solution. To ensure Pomona's most vulnerable youth and their families have the same opportunities to thrive and excel, the Pomona Kids First Initiative would amend the City of Pomona Charter to create the **Pomona Fund for Children and Youth ("Fund")**. This newly created Fund represents an exciting new opportunity to provide increased and dedicated funding for programs and services that address the needs of Pomona's children, youth, and young adults. The initiative will also create the Department of Children and Youth that will administer the fund. Entities eligible to receive funding would be public agencies³ and non-profit community-based organizations (including organizations with a non-profit fiscal agent) that serve children, youth and disconnected transitional-aged young adults.

Funding Mechanism. The Initiative seeks to secure a portion of the City of Pomona's unrestricted general purpose revenues, to be transferred to the Fund beginning in January 2025. Revenue set aside for the Fund would begin at 2% and would increase to 5% the following year, then incrementally increase over a period of six years. In Fiscal Year 2030-2031 and each subsequent year after that, 10% of the City's revenue would be set aside for the Fund.

Priority Population. To ensure that resources are available to those young people in Pomona that need it most, the Fund will prioritize funding for three groups: children birth to age 12; youth ages 13 to 17; and disconnected and/or transitional-aged youth ages 18 to 24 who are most impacted by harm, inequity and lack of access to support and services. The priority populations include but are not limited to: Latinx, Black, Indigenous, and youth of color,

¹ Census QuickFacts, July 1, 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/pomonacitycalifornia.US/PST045221>

² KidsData, 2014-2018. Retrieved from <https://www.kidsdata.org/region/818/pomona-unified/summary#37/family-economics>

³ Public agencies shall not receive, in total, more than 20% of the funding awarded to applicants in any fiscal year.

system-impacted young people; young people who have been pushed out of school; young people who themselves or whose families are unhoused or threatened by houselessness; young people living in poverty; immigrant and undocumented children, youth and families; LGBTQIA+ children, youth and families; teen parents and families, including single parents/guardians, especially single mothers; young people with poor physical, mental, emotional and behavioral health outcomes and disabilities; and families with children and youth who are impacted by the criminal justice system and/or who have family members who are incarcerated; and/or are involved in or transitioning from the foster care, juvenile justice, criminal justice or special education systems.

Services. As required by the Initiative, the City would utilize monies from the Fund only for services provided to children and youth from birth to age 18 and their caregivers, as well as services to disconnected transitional-aged youth ages 18 to 24 and, when relevant, their caregivers, or as part of programs that predominantly serve children, youth and disconnected transitional-aged young adults within those ages and their caregivers, including:

Violence Prevention and Response	Health and Well-Being
Alternatives to Incarceration	Environmental Health and Justice
Education and Job Training	Outdoor Education and Recreation
Parent/Guardian Support	Deportation and Immigrant Support
Media, Arts, Culture and Technology	Housing Support
Youth and Family Leadership, Organizing and Civic Engagement	

Examples of Cities With Dedicated Youth and Family Fund Programs

Children and Youth Fund

San Francisco, CA

In 2018, 299 proposals from 152 agencies were funded for a total of \$76.1 million from 2018 to 2023. Programs and services included detention-based services, mentoring, youth workforce development, sports, and arts and creative expression.

Richmond Fund for Children and Youth

Richmond, CA

The Fund recently awarded \$1.62 million in grants to 20 organizations offering a range of services including bilingual mental health counseling, college preparation, job apprenticeships, youth development and mentoring.

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